

7 September 1966

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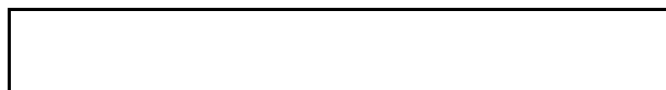
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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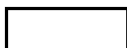
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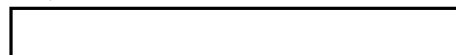


3. Poland- US: Senior Polish official hopes for improved relations with the US. (Page 3)

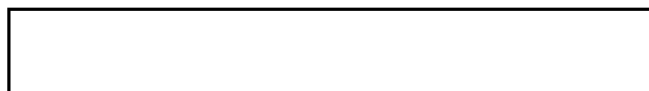
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Poland-US: A senior Polish official has expressed strong hope concerning the prospects for improved US-Polish relations.

In an unusually friendly and frank conversation with US Ambassador Gronouski on 1 September, Deputy Foreign Minister Winiewicz emphasized the Foreign Ministry's interest in US friendship. He stressed the importance--while acknowledging the difficulties--of US efforts to improve relations with Poland and with Eastern Europe in general.

Winiewicz' statements on current developments in Southeast Asia, which Gronouski thinks were authorized, included his opinion that the Vietnam war would end in 1967. Winiewicz gave no indication, however, of what prompted this view.

Winiewicz' remarks contrast with the public posture of coolness the regime has maintained toward the US since early 1965, and with its indecisive or adverse reactions to US initiatives since last January. The Poles have blamed the Vietnam war for the deterioration, but internal disputes in Warsaw have also contributed.

Advocates of a hard line in the Polish party have successfully used Vietnam as a pretext for disruption of established relations with the US. Winiewicz' expressed optimism with regard to the future of those relations and his dissociation of Foreign Ministry policymakers from the highly placed hardliners were tinged with a note of caution that it "would be suicide" for him "to buck them." His unusually forthright statements, however, suggest that he felt it necessary at least to counter the deterioration in mutual relations, or that he believes that the proponents of better relations may gain the ascendancy.

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South Africa: No changes of policy are expected in South Africa from the assassination of Prime Minister Verwoerd yesterday.

The apartheid policy of Verwoerd's National Party (NP) was overwhelmingly endorsed by the all-white electorate in the general elections last March. There is little dissension within the NP about that policy except from a small group even further to the right than Verwoerd. Relatively more liberal groups pose no threat to the NP government.

Under South Africa's parliamentary system, a new prime minister will be chosen by a caucus of the ruling political party. The NP is now scheduled to meet at a later date to choose the new prime minister and party leader. The likeliest candidates are Balthazar Vorster (Minister of Justice), Johannes de Klerk (Minister of Interior), Barend Schoeman (Minister of Transport and Railways), and Theophilus Donges (Minister of Finance). Meanwhile an acting prime minister will be appointed today by the party caucus.

Verwoerd's death leaves South Africa, and particularly the Afrikaner community, without a dominant political figure. Until such a personality emerges, the government probably will be run by a collective leadership. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

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Cyprus: Two hundred seventy-one Greek Cypriots who had been undergoing training on SA-2 missiles in Egypt have now returned to Cyprus, but the missiles, which have been stored in Alexandria since early 1965, have not yet been observed on the island. The Greek Government has insisted on having the final say on disposition of the missiles, and President Makarios may have raised the issue during his visit to Athens on 3-5 September. [REDACTED]

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Syria: The radical Baathist government has announced the arrest of members of a "rightist clique" of antiregime plotters in Damascus. The arrests were probably made to forestall a possible coup by military units which still support the former moderate Baathist leaders who escaped from prison last week. Several competing radical military factions within the regime continue to plot, however. [REDACTED]

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